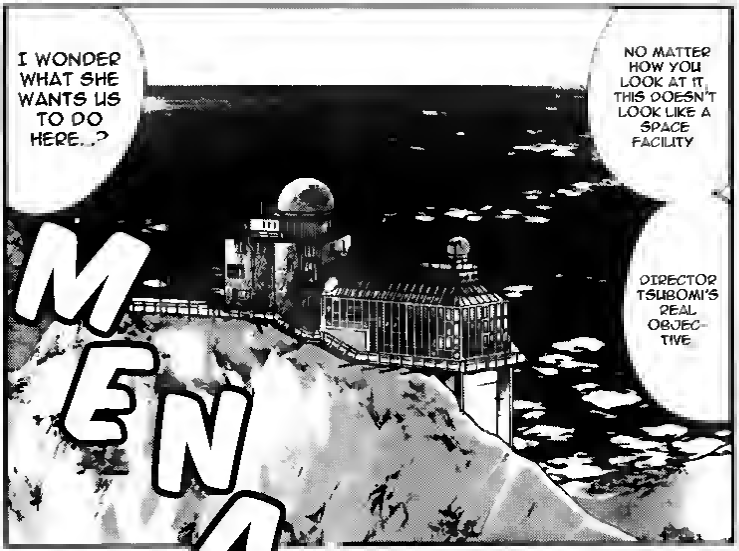
I'll help you both in these problematic times...!!

絶対可憐チルドレン

椎名高志

FAR INTO THE NORTH... A FROZEN LAND WHERE NOT EVEN ANIMALS DWELL...
THIS IS WHERE MINAMOTO AND SAKAKI HAVE BEEN SENT!

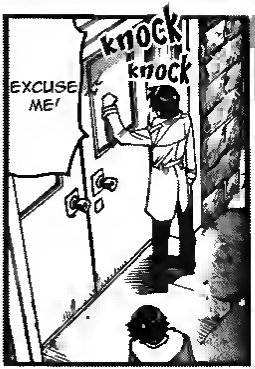
open
CREAK
URGYA AAH!!
THUD
WHERE...
IS THIS PLACE?
FWUUSH

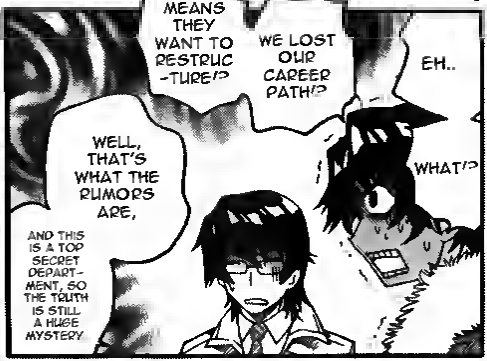

I WONDER WHAT SHE WANTS US TO DO HERE..?
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A SPACE FACILITY
DIRECTOR TSUBOMI'S REAL OBJEC-TIVE
MENACE

THIS IS PROBA-BLY...
NO...
THIS CAN'T BE!

THIS IS THE LEGENDARY DEPARTMENT WHERE PEOPLE WHO HAVE STRAYED FROM THEIR CAREER COURSE ARE ORDERED TO WORK....!!

MENACE
THE MOHOTSK OBSERVATORY...!!


knock knock
EXCUSE ME!

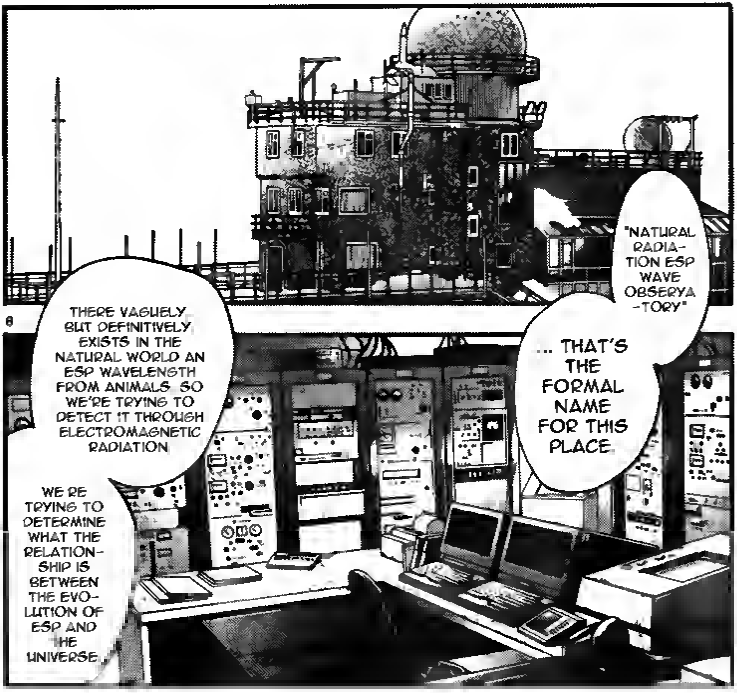

SO THIS MEANS THEY WANT TO RESTRUC-TURE!?
WE LOST OUR CAREER PATH!?
EH..
WHAT!?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT THE RUMORS ARE,
AND THIS IS A TOP SECRET DEPART-MENT, SO THE TRUTH IS STILL A HUGE MYSTERY

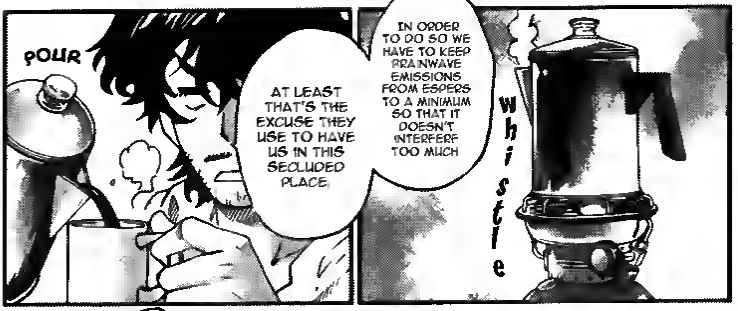
silence~
IS THERE SOMEONE THAT WE CAN TALK TO!?
WE'RE THE TRANSFER STAFF THAT BABEL ASSIGNED!
SNAP
BUT WE CAN'T JUST STAY HERE...
NOTH-ING?
LET'S GO IN.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE DOOR KNOB OF SUCH AN IMPORTANT FACILITY TO BREAK THAT EASILY, RIGHT!?
WHY!? AND WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE DOOR KNOB!?
WAAAAA
IT CAME OFF!!
WE WERE SENT HERE TO BE DISPOSED OF!
OUR FUTURE'S OVER!!
THE DOOR KNOB CAME OFF!!

!
CREAK
open
WHAT A NOISY BUNCH.!
HAVE THOSE DAMN GULLS COME TO MAKE A NEST AGAIN..?
KA-THUMP
7
TA...
EH...?

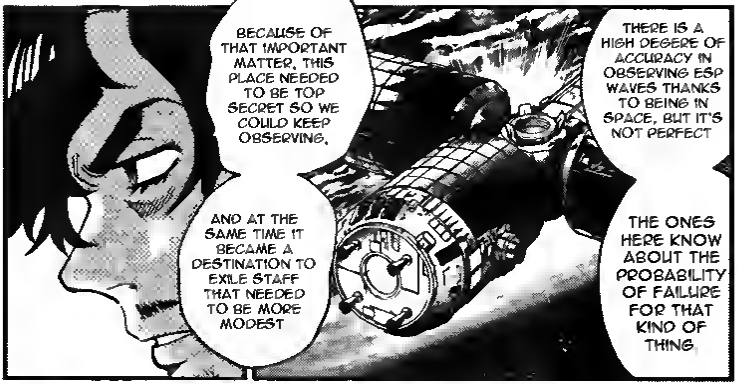
THIS IS BAD, I'M HALLUCINATING..
MINAMOTO-KUN AND SAKAKI-KUN...?
TANIZAKI-SAN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
WE'RE THE REAL THING!


"NATURAL RADIATION ESP WAVE OBSERVATORY"
... THAT'S THE FORMAL NAME FOR THIS PLACE.
THERE VAGUELY BUT DEFINITIVELY EXISTS IN THE NATURAL WORLD AN ESP WAVELENGTH FROM ANIMALS. SO WE'RE TRYING TO DETECT IT THROUGH ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION.
WE'RE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHAT THE RELATIONSHIP IS BETWEEN THE EVOLUTION OF ESP AND THE UNIVERSE.

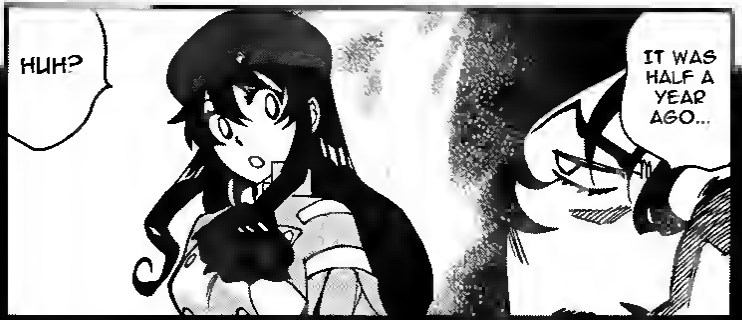

POUR
AT LEAST THAT'S THE EXCUSE THEY USE TO HAVE US IN THIS SECLUDED PLACE.
IN ORDER TO DO SO WE HAVE TO KEEP BRAINWAVE EMISSIONS FROM ESPERS TO A MINIMUM SO THAT IT DOESN'T INTERFERE TOO MUCH
whistle

THAT'S A REMNANT OF THE COLD WAR ERA
THIS IS A HIGH-PERFORMANCE OBSERVATION POINT TO CATCH ESPERS OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IF THEY WERE TO VIOLATE THE BORDER
AND ALSO BECAUSE IT'S A STRATEGICAL POINT FOR US TO ATTACK FROM, TOO.
AND WHAT'S THE REASON FOR THE ABSOLUTE SECRECY?

NOW, YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT THE NEW SPACE STATION, RIGHT?
AND...
ALSO AS A DIPLOMATIC MEASURE TO ESCAPE WITHOUT BEING TRACED.


BECAUSE OF THAT IMPORTANT MATTER, THIS PLACE NEEDED TO BE TOP SECRET SO WE COULD KEEP OBSERVING.
AND AT THE SAME TIME IT BECAME A DESTINATION TO EXILE STAFF THAT NEEDED TO BE MORE MODEST
THERE IS A HIGH DEGERE OF ACCURACY IN OBSERVING ESP WAVES THANKS TO BEING IN SPACE, BUT IT'S NOT PERFECT
THE ONES HERE KNOW ABOUT THE PROBABILITY OF FAILURE FOR THAT KIND OF THING

I DON'T REMEMBER DOING ANYTHING LIKE THAT, AND EVEN IF I DID SOMETHING I DON'T THINK IT WAS THE SAME AS WHAT TANIZAKI-SAN DID
WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO?
HA HA HA
SO THE REASON WHY YOU'RE HERE MUST BE
BECAUSE YOU MADE THE SAME MISTAKE THAT I DID, RIGHT...?

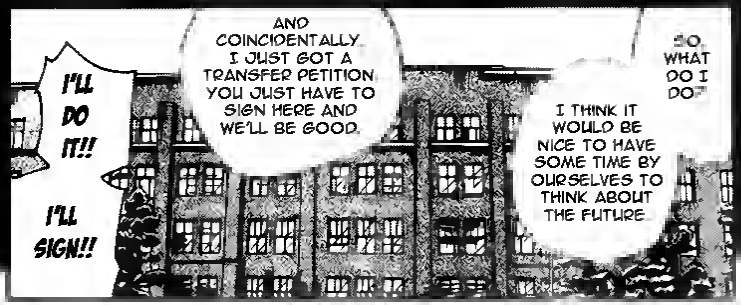

HUH?
IT WAS HALF A YEAR AGO...

YOU AND ME.
FOR... MARRIAGE.
sparkle
SOON, WE WILL HAVE BEEN A TEAM FOR 10 YEARS
AS I SAID.
WHAT DID YOU JUST...
SO I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME
FOR WHAT?
PAUSE
THIS IS NAOMI'S OPPORTUNITY... TO BE THE GREATEST TSUKKOMI!!
HERE IT COMES!

(NOTE THE "TSUKKOMI" IS THE STRAIGHT MAN IN A COMEDY DUO, AS OPPOSED TO THE COMIC)

sigh
EH?
"LET'S TAKE YOU TO MARRIAGE INTERVIEWS." "DON'T YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?" "WHEN'S THE WEDDING?" ... THEY SAY.
YOU KNOW... RECENTLY, MY PARENTS ARE BECOMING A NUISANCE AT HOME.
ALSO, "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OFFICER TANIZAKI AS YOUR PARTNER?"...
EVEN IN UNIVERSITY, I HAVEN'T HAD A BOYFRIEND.
"IF YOU'RE LIKE THAT, YOU'LL MISS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MARRIAGE," THEY SAY. AND...
AND...
.....
!!

IF YOU LOOK AT IT THAT WAY, HE'S A GOOD MARRIAGE CANDIDATE.
AND HE'S ALWAYS SAYING THAT HE LOVES ME...
THE OFFICER HAS GOOD VALUES AND IS A GOOD PERSON.
HE'S HARD-WORKING.
THE MOMENT I WAS WAITING FOR!?
GA
WHA... WHAT'S THIS...!?
IT FINALLY CAME!
AND IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ME TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR OTHER MEN.
BUT I'VE KNOWN THE OFFICER SINCE I WAS A KID.
FIN-ALLY!!
THE LONG "TSUN" HAS ENDED, AND FINALLY THE "DERE" IS HERE!!
PANT
THAT'S WHY... I'M REALLY TIRED OF FIGHTING THIS ALL THE TIME...

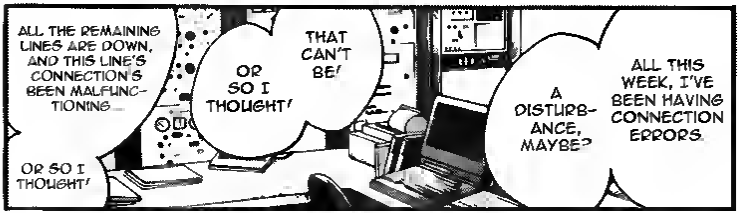

I'LL DO IT!!
I'LL SIGN!!
AND COINCIDENTALLY I JUST GOT A TRANSFER PETITION. YOU JUST HAVE TO SIGN HERE AND WE'LL BE GOOD.
I THINK IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE SOME TIME BY OURSELVES TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE.
SO WHAT DO I DO?

NAOMI-CHAN COMPLETELY OVERTHREW HIM...
YOU'VE GROWN, NAOMI!!
... IT WAS A TRAP

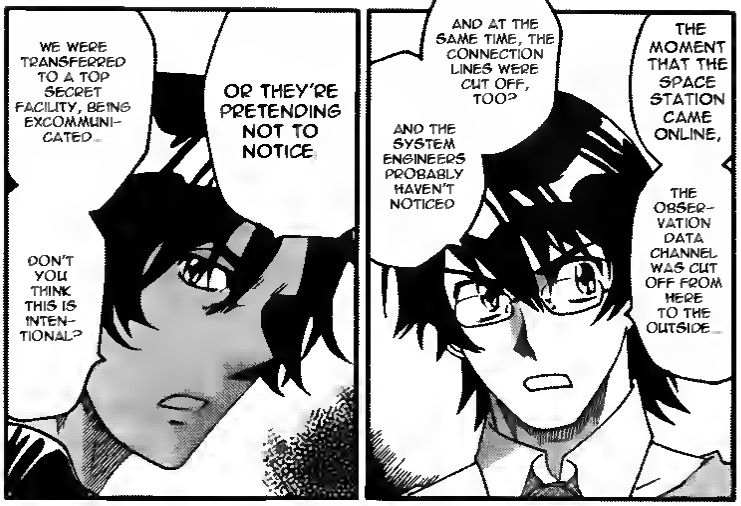
THAT WON'T DO.
CAN'T YOU JUST CALL HER?
NOT UNTIL SHE RESPONDS AND TELLS ME TO COME BACK!
YEAH,
EVERY DAY I SAY, "I'M SORRY, REALLY SORRY, I WON'T DO IT AGAIN!"
ARE YOU PRETENDING SO YOU CAN RETURN!?

IT'S ALMOST TIME!
THIS IS BAD.
I HAVE TO CONTACT NAOMI!

THAT LOOKS LIKE...
FINALLY, THE "TSUN" AND "DERE" ARE BALANCED!
NO, BUT...
Naomi
AND THE FINAL RESULT IS THIS!
"I'm sorry, really sorry, I won't do it again."
Naomi
"... Really, have you actually finally reflected about it?"
THIS IS THE CONVER-SATION LOG.
I'm sorry, really sorry, I won't do it again.
Naomi
"Shut rt. Screw you."
I'm sorry, really sorry, I won't do it again.
aomi
"You can dry yourself there."

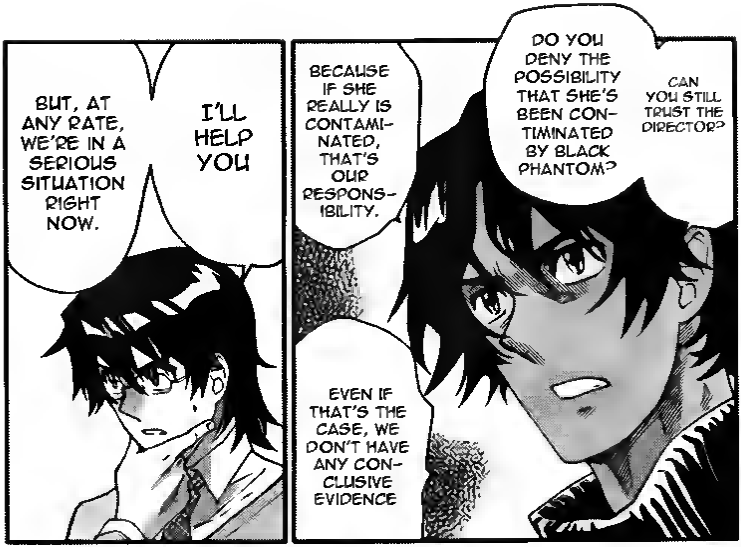

ALL THE REMAINING LINES ARE DOWN, AND THIS LINE'S CONNECTION'S BEEN MALFUNC-TIONING...
OR SO I THOUGHT!
OR SO I THOUGHT!
THAT CAN'T BE!
A DISTURB-ANCE, MAYBE?
ALL THIS WEEK, I'VE BEEN HAVING CONNECTION ERRORS.

AH, COULD IT BE...
FOR A MINUTE, I THOUGHT YOU'D COME TO REPAIR THE EQUIPMENT,
LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS FOOD AND FUEL IN THE CONTAINER, BUT...
BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE?


THE MOMENT THAT THE SPACE STATION CAME ONLINE,
THE OBSERVATION DATA CHANNEL WAS CUT OFF FROM HERE TO THE OUTSIDE...
AND AT THE SAME TIME, THE CONNECTION LINES WERE CUT OFF, TOO?
AND THE SYSTEM ENGINEERS PROBABLY HAVEN'T NOTICED
OR THEY'RE PRETENDING NOT TO NOTICE
WE WERE TRANSFERRED TO A TOP SECRET FACILITY, BEING EXCOMMUNICATED...
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS INTENTIONAL?

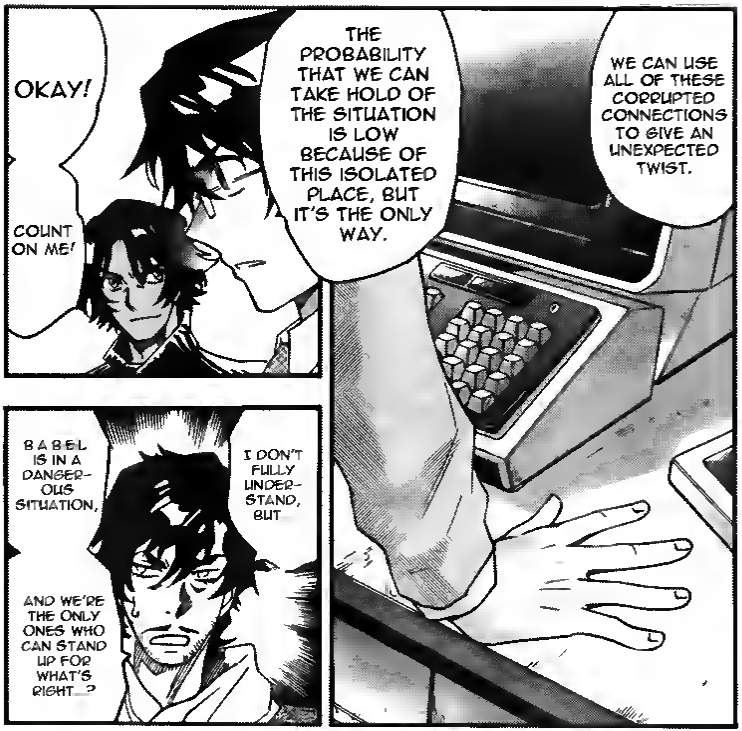
LOOKS LIKE THE DIRECTOR IS SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
BUT WE STILL CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING DAMNING...
DIRECTOR TSUBOMI!?
JUST WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER!?

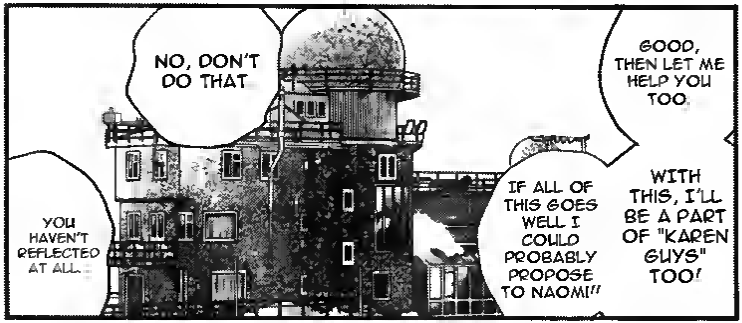
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THIS WORK DOESN'T REQUIRE THREE PEOPLE.
.....
WHICH MEANS THAT THIS TRANSFER WAS JUST TO SEND US HERE... HUH.


DO YOU DENY THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE'S BEEN CONTAMINATED BY BLACK PHANTOM?
CAN YOU STILL TRUST THE DIRECTOR?
BECAUSE IF SHE REALLY IS CONTAMINATED, THAT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY.
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE DON'T HAVE ANY CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE
I'LL HELP YOU
BUT, AT ANY RATE, WE'RE IN A SERIOUS SITUATION RIGHT NOW.

OKAY,
LET'S RESTRAIN THE DIRECTOR AND START A FORCED INSPECTION.
WORST COMES TO WORST, WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING TO DO, BUT WE CAN'T JUST SIT IDLE.

THE OPPONENT IS BABEL'S TOP AGENT AND ONE OF THE MOST DEVILISHLY HIGH-LEVEL ESPERS.
YOU THINK IT'LL BE THAT EASY?
PROBABLY NOT.
BUT WE DO HAVE AN ADVANTAGE.


OKAY!
COUNT ON ME!
THE PROBABILITY THAT WE CAN TAKE HOLD OF THE SITUATION IS LOW BECAUSE OF THIS ISOLATED PLACE, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
WE CAN USE ALL OF THESE CORRUPTED CONNECTIONS TO GIVE AN UNEXPECTED TWIST.
I DON'T FULLY UNDER-STAND, BUT
BABEL IS IN A DANGER-OUS SITUATION,
AND WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN STAND UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT...?


NO, DON'T DO THAT
GOOD, THEN LET ME HELP YOU TOO.
YOU HAVEN'T REFLECTED AT ALL...
IF ALL OF THIS GOES WELL I COULD PROBABLY PROPOSE TO NAOMI!!
WITH THIS, I'LL BE A PART OF "KAREN GUYS" TOO!

SUDDENLY THEY'VE GOTTEN THE HELP OF ANOTHER PERSON, SO THE SILENT COUNTERATTACK STARTS!
NEXT TIME, WE'LL HAVE A COLOR PAGE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE NEW VOLUME'S RELEASE!!

ZETTAI TRANSLATION PROJECT

TRANSLATION: HAOLEN
CORRECTIONS & PROOFREADING: SINLINARA
TYPESETTING & CLEANING: KAT
SCRIPT REVISION/RAWS: MIR

GO TO HAOLEN'S BLOG AT
ZETTAITRANSLATION.BLOGSPOT.MX/ FOR
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KAT'S BLOG IS
CRIESABOUTZKC.TUMBLR.COM
SINLINARA'S BLOG IS
LINASLONELYCORNER.TUMBLR.COM
MIR'S BLOG IS
SAKAKISHUJI.TUMBLR.COM